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The Berens Collections.

CATALOGUE

OF

THE WELL-KNOWN COLLECTION

OF

OLD CHINESE GOLD SPLASHED BRONZES

ALSO OF THE

PERSIAN METAL WORK AND BRASS ALMS DISHES.

Sold by Order of the Executors of

the late Mrs. Randolph Berens,

14 Prince's Gardens, S.W.

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION

BY MESSRS.

SOTHEBY, WILKINSON & HODGE

(The Rt. Hon. Sir Montague Barlow, Bt., P.C., K.B.E., G. D. Hobson, M.V.O., F. W. Warre, O.B.E., M.C., C. G. des Graz, B.A., Miss E. Barlow),

Auctioneers of Literary Property and Works illustrative of the Fine Arts,

AT THEIR LARGE GALLERIES, 34 & 35 NEW BOND STREET, W.(1),

On THURSDAY, MAY 22nd, 1924,

AT ONE O'CLOCK PRECISELY.

May be Viewed Three Days prior. Catalogues may be had.

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CATALOGUE

OF

THE WELL-KNOWN COLLECTION

OF

Old Chinese Gold Splashed Bronzes

ALSO OF THE

PERSIAN METAL WORK & BRASS ALMS DISHES.

DAY OF SALE.

THURSDAY, MAY 22ND, 1924.

SOLD BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTORS

of the late Mrs. Randolph Berens,

14 Prince's Gardens, S.W.

This remarkable Collection of Chinese Gold Splashed Bronzes is unique ; they all came from one Temple, the celebrated Temple of Heaven, in Pekin. Although they are all of one character, a beautiful pale coloured bronze inlaid with splashes of gold, yet they differ widely in date. The work was carried on traditionally, entirely for the Temple uses, and until the Rebellion and Civil War of 1900 was almost unknown in Europe.

The well-known Antiquary, M. Kytikas, of Cairo, through his agent, Benzaken, whom he sent to Pekin, bought these bronzes, a few at a time, from the dispersed servants of the Temple, and practically every piece thus obtained passed into the Berens Collection.

Owing to their great rarity, little is known of these Gold Splashed Bronzes, though their artistic charm and æsthetic value are beyond dispute. Most of these pieces date from the 17th Century, but some of the more massive ones are much earlier, 16th and, possibly, 15th Centuries.

A portion of this Collection was exhibited on loan at the South Kensington Museum. It is quite unlikely that such a Collection will ever come into the market again.

To save repetition in describing each lot, we may mention here that every piece is of the Gold Splashed type.

OLD CHINESE GOLD SPLASHED BRONZES.

LOT

1 A VERY FINE BOWL, with two handles, elaborately chiselled with conventional designs in high relief, and with very beautiful gold splash ; 8*in. high*, 17*in. wide*

[*See* FRONTISPIECE.]

2 A FINE KORO, on three feet, with scroll dragon handles, and mounted with grotesque monsters in relief, carved wood stand, and pierced wood cover, surmounted by carved carnelian handle ; 17*in. high*, 16*in. wide* 3

[*See* FRONTISPIECE.]

3 A PAIR OF SQUARE JARDINIÈRES, with oblong fret, carved handles and rim, the sides with panels, and resting on shaped curved legs ; 12*in. high*, 13*in. wide* 2

[*See* FRONTISPIECE.]

4 A VERY FINE VASE OF BOTTLE SHAPE, with loose ring handles, and plain bands in relief, very finely splashed with gold ; 20*in. high*

5 A PAIR OF FLATTENED INVERTED PEAR-SHAPED VASES, with strap-work decoration, fine gold splash, and pierced handles ; 15*in.* 2

6 ANOTHER, of similar form and decoration, of very fine quality ; 15*in.* 1

7 A pair of flattened globular Bowls, with short mask handles, and moulded panels with inscriptions ; 16*in. wide* 2

8 Another, of similar form, with plain body splashed with gold, and lambrequin borders ; 16*in. wide*

9 A FINE BEAKER-SHAPED VASE, the handles formed as bamboo, and with four panels chiselled with characters in relief ; 19*in. high*

10 ANOTHER remarkably fine Beaker, the body melon-shaped, with wide flange lip bordered to represent bamboo ; 21*in. high*

11 A PAIR OF SQUARE JARDINIÈRES, the panels with inscriptions in old Chinese characters, incised geometrical key borders, and with unusually small gold splash decorations ; 11*in. high* 2

12 A VERY FINE KORO, on three claw feet, the handles and mounts formed as dragons, with pierced wood stand and cover, the latter mounted with carved carnelian ; *total height* 21*in.*

13 A LARGE BEAKER-SHAPED VASE, of the highest quality, the handles formed as monsters, the neck with two bands in high relief, the body with the masks in relief and emblematic inscriptions ; 23*in. high*

14 ANOTHER FINE VASE, of similar form, with four handles formed as dragons, and finely splashed with gold ; 25*in. high*

15 A 2-handled Bowl, with chiselled panels of conventional design ; 9½*in. high*

16 A VASE OF FINE SHAPE, with narrow neck and spreading lip, the handles formed as newts, pale-coloured bronze and gold splash ; 13½*in. high*

[*See* ILLUSTRATION.]

17 A SMALLER VASE, of flattened pear-shape, with mounts and handles formed as monsters ; 10*in. high*

[*See* ILLUSTRATION.]

18 ANOTHER VASE, of very uncommon form, with loose ring handles, an inscription in relief, and the three feet formed as animals ; 8½*in. high*

[*See* ILLUSTRATION.]

19 AN OVIFORM VASE, of remarkably fine quality, figures of deer on the shoulder in relief, and the feet shaped as elephants' heads ; 10*in. high*

20 A pair of oblong Jardinières, the panels with inscriptions, on four scroll feet, and pierced handles ; 11*in. long* 2

21 A FINE BOWL, with chiselled borders and very boldly splashed with gold, mask handles ; 10½*in. diam.*

22 A Vase, of melon-shape, with long neck and wide lip, the handles formed as lizards ; 13½*in. high*

23 Another Vase, of pear shape, with monster handles (12½*in.*) ; and a globular Bowl, on three feet, with ring handles, 7*in. high* 2

24 Two small flat-shaped Bowls, with pierced handles ; and a Koro and Cover, with elephant-head handles 4

25 A beaker-shaped Vase, of good form, 6½*in.* ; a shallow circular Bowl, on three feet, 6¾*in. diam.* ; and another taller Bowl, with mask handles 3

26 A globular-shaped Vase, of fine quality, on three short legs, with ring handles, and well-carved black wood stand, 7*in.* ; and a Flower-Pot, on three feet, with one handle only, 4*in.* 3

27 A square Beaker Vase, of elegant form, and raised bands of decoration, 9½*in.* ; and another, circular beaker, with raised flanges, 7*in.* 2

28 A VERY FINE KORO AND COVER, of square form, on moulded base, the handles of scroll-work and animals, and the cover surmounted by kylin with a ball ; 14*in. high* 2

[*See* ILLUSTRATION.]

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29 A FINE WINE JAR AND COVER, globular body, and elegant handle and spout, round the centre is a long inscription in old Chinese characters ; 12*in.* 2

[*See* ILLUSTRATION.]

30 A VERY RARE VASE, SHAPED AS A LOTUS LEAF, the foot formed of the twisted stalk and a rolled-up leaf, two panels with inscriptions ; 6*in. high*

[*See* ILLUSTRATION.]

31 A fine cylindrical Vase, on three short legs, mask handles, with loose rings and chiselled borders, 9*in.* ; and a mortar-shaped Jardinière, with very quaint handles, 5½*in.* 2

32 A pear-shaped Vase, with two handles, and ornaments in relief, 12*in.* ; and a fine Sacrificial Bowl, on three legs, with chiselled border, and plain handles, 7½*in.* 2

33 A FINE BEAKER, elaborately worked with figures of dragons in panels, lambrequin border in high relief, and monster-shaped handles ; 16*in. high*

34 A Jardinière, of good colour and form, inverted bell shape, with ornaments in relief, and handles formed as lizards ; 7*in.*

35 AN OVIFORM VASE, OF VERY HEAVY BRONZE, with three loose ring handles, and short shaped feet, 11*in.* ; and a smaller globular-shaped Vase, with two raised handles, and three feet, 6½*in.* 2

36 A Vase, of good form, with two ring handles, 8½*in.* ; a pear-shaped Vase, with leaf decoration in relief, 8½*in.* ; and a small Koro and Cover, the latter also of bronze, pierced with a design of branches and persimmon fruit 4

37 A small oviform Vase, of very fine heavy bronze, 7*in.* ; and a fine quality Bowl, with two handles ; 9*in. diam.* 2

38 A GLOBULAR SHAPE KORO, OF FINE QUALITY, with three curious circular handles, carved wooden cover mounted with jade handle, 7*in.* ; and a very heavy 2-handled flattened Bowl, with fine seal mark and inscription, 9*in. diam.* 3

39 A tall Vase, of inverted pear shape, 13½*in. high* ; and a large Bowl, with two handles, of very fine quality, 12*in. diam.* 2

40 A plain Bowl, of cauldron shape, with conventional handles, 5½*in.* ; and two globular Vases, with handles, 4½*in.* 3

41 A bottle-shaped Vase, with long neck, of fine colour, 8½*in.* ; and a Vase, with ring handles, of fine quality, 7*in.*, with carved wood stand 3

42 A FINE BOWL, ON THREE FEET, the handles to represent twisted rope, 7*in. diam.* ; another Bowl, slightly smaller, with wood cover ; and one other, with incurved sides, 7*in. diam.* 4

43 A FINE QUALITY VASE, the handles made to represent sprays of hawthorn blossom which spread across the body of the vase, 12½*in.* ; and another Vase, with band of incised decoration, and loose ring handles, 14*in.* 2

44 A curious cylindrical-shaped Vase, with Cover, said to have been made to contain rolls of prayers, 18*in. high* ; and three small Bowls, of good quality, and double handles 5

45 A KORO AND COVER, the latter pierced with formal design, on tapered legs, and having carved wood stand, 13*in.* ; and a globular-shaped Vase, with two raised handles, 6½*in.* 4

46 A fine Bowl, formed as a persimmon fruit, with naturalistic branch handles, 6*in. high* ; and another Bowl, of good quality, and plain handles ; 6*in. diam.* 2

47 A tall Vase, of diamond shape, with handles formed as water newts or lizards, 12*in.* ; and a very quaint Kettle with lid, and hinged spout ; on wood stand 4

48 A LARGE CIRCULAR FLATTENED BOWL, with three feet formed as grotesque heads, 12*in. diam.* ; and a fine Jardinière, of bell shape, with chiselled borders and characters in high relief, 7*in. high* 2

49 A FINE VASE, decorated with three kylins in relief, and three handles, 10½*in.* ; a Beaker, of good quality, 6*in.* ; and a curious Vase, shaped as a roped bale, 5½*in.* 3

50 An oblong Koro, on tall supports, the pierced wood cover mounted with agate, 9½*in.*; and a good Beaker, with long inscriptions in the two panels, 7½*in.* 3

51 Another oblong Koro, finely chiselled, wood stand; a smaller one, on curved legs, 6*in.*; and a Vase, of good form, with bands and ring handles, 6*in.* 4

52 A VERY FINE KORO, WITH BRONZE COVER, on three curved supports, grotesque monster handles, and carved wood stand for same; 13*in. high* 3

53 TWO BEAKERS, of extremely elegant shape, 7½*in. and* 9½*in. high*; and a small Vase, of fine quality, 6*in.* 3

54 A square Vase, of good quality, with characters in high relief, and loose ring handles, 7*in.*; and a Koro and Cover, with inscriptions in sunk panels on either side, 9*in.* 3

55 Another Koro and Cover, surmounted by figure of a kylin with ball, 9*in.*; a Bowl, shaped as a section of bamboo; and a plain Bowl, both with wood covers 6

56 A small Bowl, with inverted sides; a Koro, with mask lid; a small Kettle; a Box; and a small Vase 6

57 A pair of Wine Vessels and Covers, the sides with old Chinese characters in relief 4

58 A fine Vase, with bands of inscriptions; and another, of similar form, but without the inscriptions, loose ring handles, 12*in. high* 2

59 A pair of very fine quality Bowls, with grotesque monster handles, sunk panels with characters in relief; and Stands also in bronze, 6*in.* 4

60 Two other Bowls, of similar form, both of very fine quality, and with fine bronze Stands; 6*in.* 4

61 A pair of square Jardinières, with raised handles, and on shaped supports; 7*in.* 2

62 A pair of pear-shaped Vases, with kylin handles; 10*in.* 2

63 A Bell, of fine shape, 10*in.*; and a fine Hookah, with Lid, 9*in.* 3

64 A pair of Hookahs and Covers, with numerous Chinese characters in relief round the body 4

65 A pair of Incense Burners, on three tall supports, with deeply chiselled conventional designs, fine quality and colour; 7*in.* 2

66 A Bowl, on three supports, with two curious rope-pattern handles; and another Bowl, with animal handles 2

67 Another Bowl, with bronze stand; and two smaller ones of similar form; all with plain handles 4

68 A Vase, with mounts, and handles formed as animals, 9½*in.*; and two shallow Bowls, with plain handles, one with stand 4

69 A very elegant Beaker Vase, 13*in.*; another, with deeply fluted sides, 10*in.*; and a tall cup-shaped Vase, on three supports, 12*in.* 3

70 A PAIR OF FINE JARS AND COVERS, of pear shape, and of very massive bronze; 16*in.* 4

71 ANOTHER PAIR, of similar form and quality, but smaller; 13*in.* 4

72 TWO OTHERS, of similar shape, with heavy covers 4

73 A PAIR OF VERY FINE VASES AND COVERS, four-sided, and richly chiselled with bands of ornament in relief, grotesque handles; 18*in. high* 4

74 A FINE VASE AND COVER, of square shape, very beautifully coloured bronze; the cover surmounted by a kylin with a ball; 12*in.* 2

75 ANOTHER, of similar shape, inscriptions in panels, and Cover, with kylin, and fine handles; 14*in.* 2

76 A large Bowl, of flattened shape, with plain handles, 13½*in. diam.*; and two others of same form, but slightly smaller 3

77 A Bowl and Stand, both of bronze, with wood Cover, jade handle in the form of a fungus ; and two sacrificial Cups, on tall supports 5

78 Three fine Bowls, of cauldron shape, each with two handles, fine and massive bronze ; 4½*in.*, 5*in.*, 5½*in. diam.* 3

79 Two tall Sacrificial Cups, on three supports ; and a good quality Bowl and Stand 4

80 Two FIGURES OF IMMORTALS, one carrying a joey, and the other with a scroll ; 10*in. and* 11*in.* 2

81 A VERY REMARKABLE INCENSE BURNER, in the form of a grotesque animal, with hinged lid ; 9*in. high*

82 A small Bowl, shaped as a persimmon fruit ; and four other Bowls of various shapes 5

83 A collection of six Bowls, all of different types and forms 6

84 A FINE BOWL, with incurved sides, 10*in.* ; a smaller one, similar, with bronze stand, 8*in.* ; and a smaller Bowl, 5½*in.* 4

85 A BOWL OF EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD QUALITY, 6*in.* ; another, with cover pierced in plum-blossom design, 5*in.* ; and a straight-sided Bowl, with fish handles, 5*in. diam.* 4

86 Figure of an Immortal carrying a joey ; an oblong Bowl, with two handles ; a Figure of a Woman seated ; and a small Beaker Vase 4

87 A curious Vase, formed of two vases roped together, 11*in.* ; and a smaller one of same design, with wood stand, 10*in.* 3

88 A PAIR OF VERY FINE LARGE VASES, of bottle shape, with long necks, of good colour and finely splashed with gold ; 22*in.* 2

89 A PAIR OF VERY HANDSOME JARS AND COVERS, of massive bronze, with heavy lids ; *fine seal marks* ; 24*in.* 4

90 ANOTHER, of similar shape, but slightly smaller, fine quality bronze ; 23*in.* 2

91 A PAIR OF FINE VASES, hexagonal shape, with curious raised seal decoration, and lizard handles ; 18*in.* 2

92 A fine Jardinière, square shape, the raised panels with inscriptions, and on rounded projecting supports, the handles with raised trellis-work ; 11*in. high*

93 A PAIR OF FINE VASES, of beautiful colour, and decorated with four wide bands of conventional designs ; 20*in.* 2

94 A SPLENDID OLD BRONZE KYLIN, with gold splash, and hinged lid ; *very curious and rare* ; 20*in. high*

95 ANOTHER FINE KYLIN, similar, but of paler gold-colour bronze ; and a tall wood Stand for same ; *total height* 2*ft.* 8*in.* 2

96 A double Vase, elaborately decorated with raised strap-work, 5*in.* ; three bronze Vase Stands ; and a small Kettle, in form of an animal 5

97 Four bronze Bowls (without gold inlay) ; and two small Koros and Covers 8

98 A very curious bronze Aquamanile, formed as an animal ; and two very elegant Wine Vessels, of gilded metal 3

99 TWO VERY HANDSOME CHINESE BRASS ALTAR BEAKERS, with loose handles ; 10½*in. and* 9*in.* 2

100 TWO OTHER BRASS VASES, of beaker shape, with raised flanges and old engraving ; 11½*in. and* 11*in.* 2

101 A quantity of wood Stands and Covers, some finely carved

OLD PERSIAN METAL WORK.

102 A VERY FINE "SHAMDAN," or Stand, to support the metal bowl placed in a mosque for the worshippers to put in their offerings of money ; a fine example, beautifully chiselled with arabesque decoration and long inscriptions from the Koran ; 16*th Century* ; 12*in. high*

103 ANOTHER, of remarkably fine quality, decorated with twenty-one rows of chiselled conventional designs, and inscriptions in Arabic, and finely inlaid with silver; *Arab Art, 16th Century*; 11*in. high*

104 ANOTHER, very fine and massive "Shamdan," with two wide bands of bold diagonal chasing, and chiselled inscriptions running round the centre and top border; *16th Century*; 11*in. high*

105 ANOTHER, finely chased with Arabic designs, and the incised parts filled in with black enamel; *rare*; 12*in. high*

106 ANOTHER, very fine example, similar to preceding lot, but the design of the column part is taken from an old Persian brocade; *16th Century*; 12*in.*

107 ANOTHER, the column 10-sided, and covered with a fine small brocade design, and Arabic inscription round the top; 10*in.*

108 ANOTHER, with four bands of inscriptions running round the centre portion, narrow arabesque designs above, and showing traces of having been enamelled in black and red; *15th Century, rare*; 10½*in.*

109 ANOTHER, with two wide bands of fine arabesque patterns, and inscription round the top; *16th Century*; 10½*in.*

110 ANOTHER, with three wide bands of decoration and narrow borders; it is interesting to compare this with some of the previous lots and notice how the art had deteriorated; *17th Century*; 10*in.*

111 A curious old Persian Perfume Box, in form of a bird, hinged lid, and interior fitted with various divisions; and a pair of very elegant Wine Vessels, in metal gilt, Chinese, made for the Persian market 3

112 Three old Chinese brass Koros, all with pierced lids; and a small Beaker Vase, in brass 7

113 A small bronze Vase, of fine quality, with gold splash; and a Persian brass Sprinkler 2

114 Three Persian silver Sprinklers, of elegant form, all with repoussé-work formal designs; *from* 10*in.* *to* 13½*in.* 3

115 A Turkish brass "Shamdan," or Bowl Stand, 14½*in.*; a Persian brass pierced Vase and Cover, 19*in.*; and a brass Bowl 4

116 A Persian Rose-water Ewer (ibrik) and Bowl (tisht), of russet iron, inlaid with gold; *ewer* 16*in.* *high* 3

117 Two very elegant Persian Rose-water Ewers (ibrik), of metal gilt, with dome-shaped covers; 16*in.* *high* 2

118 A Rose-water Dish (tisht), of richly embossed brass, and the Ewer (ibrik), with fluted sides slightly engraved; and a Chinese bronze Vase, inlaid with silver, 13½*in.* 4

119 Two hanging Lanterns, the tops of brass, repoussé and pierced 2

BRASS ALMS DISHES.

120 A FINE DISH, with raised centre and inscription, 19*in.* *diam.*; and ANOTHER, of similar design, 18*in.* 2

121 A PAIR OF FINE LARGE DISHES, with raised centres, and small rosettes, etc., round the borders; 17½*in.* *diam.* 2

122 TWO OTHERS, of very similar design; 17*in.* *diam.* 2

123 THREE VERY FINE DISHES, all with inscriptions round the centre, raised ornament; *two* 17½*in.*; *one* 19*in.* 3

124 A Dish, with Adam and Eve and inscription, 15*in.*; and a large Dish, with same subject and repoussé border, 21*in.* 2

125 A fine Dish, with interesting subject of the Unicorn taking refuge with the Virgin, 16½*in.*; and another, with Abraham's Sacrifice, 15*in.* 2

126 A Dish, with the Annunciation, 14*in.*; and another, with Adam and Eve, 16½*in.* 2 7 10

127 A Dish, with conventional design of vases and scrolls, 14½*in.*; another deep Dish, 15*in.*; and a small Dish, with a lion, 9*in.* 3 15 10

£1794. 15.

END OF SALE.

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